

**Rural District of St. Faith's
and Aylsham**

**THE
ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE
Medical Officer of Health**

(ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.),

**TOGETHER WITH THE
REPORT OF THE
Senior Sanitary Inspector**

(H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E.)

1946

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(Alex. P. Agnew, M.B., C.M.),

FOR THE

Rural District of St. Faith's and Aylsham

NORFOLK

For the Year 1946

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL,

In this, which will be my final report, I will adhere for the sake of continuity, to the same arrangement as in previous years:

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	93,119
Population (Census 1931)	25,648
Population (estimated resident 1946)	35,180
Number of structurally separate dwellings (1931) ...	7,660
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1946	£148,942
Estimated Net Produce of a Penny Rate	£595
Number of Evacuees remaining billeted in District on 31st December, 1946	3

VITAL STATISTICS

Deaths.	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths (all ages)	178	183	361
Death rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population			10.26
Deaths from Measles			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			3

Births.		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Live Births—Legitimate	... ..	301	322	623
Illegitimate	... ..	26	29	55
Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated resi-				
dent population	... ..			19.27
Still Births—Legitimate	... ..	11	12	23
Illegitimate	... ..	2	Nil	2
Still Birth rate per 1,000 total (Live				
and Still) Births	... ..			35.56

Infantile Mortality.		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age:				
Legitimate	... ..	9	8	17
Illegitimate	... ..	3	1	4
Death rate of Infants under 1 year				
of age:				
All Infants per 1,000 live births				30.97
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legi-				
timate live births	... ..			27.28
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000				
illegitimate live births	... ..			72.72

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth:			
From Sepsis ... Nil.	From other causes ... 2.	Total 2	
Death rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	... ..	2.84	

England and Wales.

For the purpose of comparison, I here give comparable rates of England and Wales for 1946:—

Death Rate per 1,000 population	... ..	11.5
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	... ..	19.1
Infantile Mortality per 1,000 live births	... ..	43

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

These remain unchanged, and the lack of facilities for nursing the sick, especially the aged and chronic sick, was again experienced during the year, but it is gratifying to note that steps are being taken in many districts to improve matters by way of employing part-time trained and partly-trained nurses to relieve those on the staffs of Hospitals and Institutions, etc.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Very satisfactory progress has been made in providing protection to children against Diphtheria. As mentioned in my last report, steps are being taken to administer the first injections at nine months and to follow this up by what is styled a “boosting” injection on children entering school at five years.

We have now immunised since the beginning of the service:—

1,216	Children under 5 years of age on 31st December, 1946.
1,409	Children between 5 and 9 years of age on 31st December, 1946.
1,604	Children between 10 and 14 years of age on 31st December, 1946.
<hr/> 4,229	Total.

To this total, 2,067 now over 15 years of age should be added.

During the year, 285 children completed a full course of treatment.

The recorded number of notifications in England and Wales, which since before 1941 averaged over 55,000 yearly, fell to 18,186. As regards mortality, we find that prior to 1941 the deaths in England and Wales were never below 2,000, but in 1942 they dropped to 1,827, in 1943 to 1,371, in 1944 to 934, in 1945 to 720, and in 1946 to 472.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS

The cases of Infectious Diseases which were notified are as follows:—

					<i>Notified</i>	<i>Deaths</i>
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	23	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	6	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	16	14
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	15	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	9	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	82	1
Measles	...	...	...	...	208	—
Jaundice	...	...	...	...	36	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	3	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	Nil	2

(Of the six cases of Diphtheria there is no record of them being immunised.)

TUBERCULOSIS

		<i>Males</i>		<i>Females</i>		<i>Total</i>
Cases on Register, 31st						
		Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non- Pulmonary	
December, 1945	...	62	28	48	39	177
Cases on Register, 31st						
December, 1946	...	65	31	49	34	179

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 to 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5 to 10 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10 to 15 years	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15 to 20 years	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—
20 to 25 years	2	4	1	—	—	1	—	—
25 to 35 years	3	1	2	—	—	2	1	1
35 to 45 years	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—
45 to 55 years	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
55 to 65 years	2	1	1	—	3	1	—	—
65 years and over	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	10	10	7	2	4	5	1	1

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR, 1946

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	3	8
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—	—
Syphilitic Diseases	2	—
Influenza	—	3
Measles	—	—
Acute Polio-Myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (M) and Uterus (F)	3	1
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	5	4

Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	10
Cancer of all Other Sites	...	...	...	...	30	12
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	2
Intra Cranial Lesions	...	...	...	...	21	31
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	51	55
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...	...	...	4	4
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	7	4
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	9	5
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	5	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	2
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	3	1
Nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	1
Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	2
Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2	1
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infantile Diseases	...	...	...	...	6	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	2	1
Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	3	—
Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	1	6
All other Causes	...	...	...	...	16	23
					<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	...	...	...	...	178	183
					<hr/>	<hr/>

WATER SUPPLY

(See the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.)

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND SCAVENGING

(See the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.)

THE MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER

(See the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report.)

In spite of the shortage of manpower and materials and the national financial resources, the health of the district has been exceptionally good. No reports of malnutrition or under-nutrition have been reported to me. There is, however, one thing which I should like to see done generally throughout the country: that is, more care taken in the production, handling and distribution of foodstuffs. Serious outbreaks of Typhoid, Enteric and Dysenteric Diseases have and are occurring and traced to "carriers" en-

gaged more particularly in the Ice-Cream Trade. More stringent precautions are overdue in the supervision of all the personnel engaged in this occupation. Blood and other tests should be compulsory and every employee encouraged and instructed to report any illness, especially Diarrhoea and taken off duty. Dysentery is known to be spread through the handling of bread by persons suffering or as "carriers." This is an indication of the advisability of wrapping bread and similar foodstuffs.

In conclusion, I have to thank you, Mr. Chairman and the Council and Officials, for continued and invaluable help afforded to me at all times during the year.

(Signed) ALEX. P. AGNEW, M.B., C.M.

RED HOUSE,
WYMONDHAM, NORFOLK.

September, 1947.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

For the Year 1946

NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING THE YEAR IN CONNECTION WITH SANITARY AND OTHER WORK

Inspections under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	1,044
Revisits to ascertain progress of work	... ..	628
Visits to Infectious Disease Cases	... ..	66
Rooms Disinfected	... ..	56
Inspections of Cowsheds and Dairies	... ..	317
Inspections of Slaughter-houses and Food Premises	...	489
Inspections of Bakehouses	... ..	42
Inspections under the Shops Acts	... ..	3
Inspections in connection with Scavenging Schemes	...	989
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	... ..	23
Inspections under the Petroleum Acts	... ..	38
Other visits, interviewing owners, repair of War Damage, etc.	... ..	836
Inspections under Building Bye-Laws	... ..	1,745
Inspections in connection with the issue of Building Licences	... ..	1,708
Total	... ..	7,984

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

The following are the particulars of the work carried out in connection with Meat and Food Inspection during the year.

The number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughter-House under the control of the Ministry of Food were as follows:—

Beef	...	2,322
Pork	...	385
Mutton	...	3,521
Veal	...	1,164
Total	... ..	7,392

The following is a summary of the meat condemned as being unfit for human consumption, and the bracketed figures indicate the number which were affected with Tuberculosis:—

BEEF—

34	Carcases and all Offal (21)
28	Forequarters (27)
4	Hindquarters (4)
1,268	lbs. Beef (1,031 lbs.)
326	Heads (278)
282	Tongues (234)
598	Livers (96)
456	Parts Livers
513	Sets Lungs (362)
144	Mesenteries (127)
11	Spleens (11)
7	Hearts
30	Kidneys (10)

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Abscesses	Injuries
Actinomycosis	Melanosis
Angioma	Necrosis
Bone Taint	Nephritis
Cirrhosis	Oedema
Congestion	Pentastomum
Decomposition	Pneumonia
Distomatosis	Septicæmia
Echinococcus	Septic Pericarditis
Fatty Infiltration	Tumours
Fever	Uræmia
Fibrosis	

PORK—

28	Carcases and all Offal
76	lbs. Pork
19	Heads (19)
7	Kidneys
17	Sets Lungs (2)
2	Hearts
13	Livers
9	Mesenteries (9)

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Cirrhosis	Injuries
Fever	Oedema
Immaturity	Pneumonia
Inflammation	Swine Erysipelas
Jaundice	Swine Fever

MUTTON—

2 Whole Carcases and Offal
36 lbs. Mutton
349 Sets Lungs
137 Livers

Reasons for condemnation were:—

Abscesses	Injuries
Dropsy	Parasites
Fever	Pneumonia
Inflammation	

VEAL—

8 Whole Carcases and Offal (2)
8 Livers (4)
6 Sets Lungs (4)
43 lbs. Veal

Reasons for condemnation other than Tuberculosis were:—

Inflammation	Necrosis
Melanosis	Pyæma
Jaundice	Immaturity

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED—

158 Tins of Meat and Fish
87 Tins Milk
79 Tins Vegetables, etc.
28 lbs. Cheese
70 lbs. Dried Fruit
72 Packets Bun Flour

COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES

There are 196 Cowkeepers on the Council's register, and the following is a summary of the work carried out during the year in connection with these Producers' and Retailers' Premises:—

CLEANLINESS OF PREMISES—

Cowsheds limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	14
Dairies limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	11
Premises where dirty milking stools were cleansed	...					2
Dirty cowshed floors cleansed	...	...	...	...		3
Accumulations of manure removed	...	...	...			3
Other contraventions of the Milk & Dairies Order remedied	...	...	...	...	...	9

STRUCTURAL DEFECTS IN PREMISES—

New Cowsheds erected	...	...	...	...	3
Cowshed floors repaired or amended	...	...	...	...	3
Drainage of Dairies or Cowsheds provided or amended	...	...	...	...	2
Wash or storage Dairies provided	...	...	...	...	3
Dairy Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	4
Additional lighting provided to Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	1
Entrance yards to Cowsheds made up	...	...	...	...	3
Sterilisers provided	...	...	...	...	2
Other structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	4

MILK SAMPLING

Up to the 31st July, 1946, samples were taken on behalf of the Norfolk County Council.

METHYLENE BLUE TEST—

	<i>Samples taken</i>	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>
“Accredited ” Producers	28	23	5

The results of the samples were as follows:—

	Winter Months		Summer Months	
	Producers	Applicants	Producers	Applicants
Samples not Decolourised	11	—	12	—
Ditto, but containing B. Coli.	—	—	—	—
*—				
Decolourised in 5½ hours	—	—	—	—
“ 5 ”	—	—	—	—
“ 4½ ”	—	—	—	—
“ 4 ”	—	—	1	—
“ 3½ ”	—	—	1	—
“ 3 ”	—	—	—	—
“ 2½ ”	—	—	—	—
“ 2 ”	—	—	1	—
“ 1½ ”	—	—	—	—
“ 1 ”	—	—	2	—
“ ½ ”	—	—	—	—
Totals	11	Nil	17	Nil

*Samples below this line failed to pass the test.

BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION—

In addition to the above, 35 samples were taken of milk produced at Retailers’ premises for examination for the detection of Tubercle Bacilli on behalf of the County Council. Of these, the examination of 33 was completed and in 2 cases Tubercle Bacilli were found.

SCAVENGING AND SALVAGE

The following are the parishes in which Scavenging is carried out in the district:—

BY DIRECT LABOUR—

Aylsham, Catton, Coltishall, Hellesdon, Horsham St. Faith's with Newton St. Faith's, Reepham, Sprowston and Wroxham. The removal of House Refuse and Night Soil.
Gt. Witchingham. The removal of Night Soil only.

BY CONTRACT—

Foulsham. The removal of House Refuse and Night Soil.

At the beginning of the year the scavenging in Reepham and Wroxham was carried out by contract, but owing to the Contractor finding it impossible to carry on it was necessary at short notice to take over the work by direct labour with improvised vehicles. The impossibility of obtaining new vehicles within a reasonable time presents considerable difficulty in maintaining and extending this service.

The Council maintains a Cesspool Emptying Vehicle which operates throughout the district for the convenience of householders, and it was used to its fullest capacity. An additional vehicle was placed on order, but it has not yet been delivered.

During the year 121 tons of Salvage were collected and disposed of, the value being £625. This was a reduction on the previous year by approximately 25 per cent.

DRAINAGE, SEWERAGE AND WATER SUPPLIES

Full particulars under this heading were included in my report for the year 1944. Progress was made in the preparation by the Consulting Engineer of schemes for providing sewers and piped water supply in every parish in the district.

CIVIL BUILDING CONTROL

The work under this heading was increased during the year when the power was given to the Council to issue Licences for Housing Work without any limit as to the cost involved. In addition, the W.B.A. Priority Scheme for materials was introduced and the Council was given the duty of issuing the Certificates. As will be observed from the figures which follow, this control involves a considerable amount of work which unfortunately must be made restrictive owing to the shortage of materials at a time when there is an urgent demand for houses and the

carrying-out of accumulated repairs as a result of deterioration. The carrying-out of this work conscientiously and fairly demands a great proportion of the time of the staff which in more fortunate times could be usefully devoted to other duties which would result in improvement of conditions.

One hopes the time is not far distant when the position as to supply of materials will remove the need for these restrictions. The works permitted at present are only those that are absolutely essential, which with existing houses are little more than securing that they are wind and water-tight.

The following is a summary of work carried out in connection with Civil Building Control:—

NEW HOUSES—

No. of houses for which applications for Building Licences were received	...	...	...	...	144
No. of houses for which Licences were issued	...	...	...	...	58
No. of houses for which Licences were refused	...	...	...	...	86

REPAIR OF HOUSES AND OTHER WORK—

No. of applications received	...	...	...	...	1,239
No. of applications refused	...	...	...	...	153
No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	1,086

MAINTENANCE LICENCES—

No. of applications received	...	...	...	...	3
No. of applications refused	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Licences issued	...	...	...	...	2

In addition to the above, 120 recommendations were made to the Regional Licensing Officer of the Ministry of Works as to the issue of Licences.

HOUSING

Progress was made during the year in the Council's Post-War Housing Programme and 42 houses were completed at the end of the year, and 48 were in course of erection. Tenders for a further 136 houses were approved. In addition, the site works were in progress in readiness for 90 Prefabricated Houses.

During the year, 82 houses were completed by private enterprise and a further 30 houses were under construction. One conversion of a building into a dwelling-house was completed and 12 War Damaged houses were rebuilt.

In this district, as in the Country in general, the need for new houses is acute, and there are long lists of applicants for houses and Building Licences for the erection of new dwellings.

It was still only possible to require the carrying-out of bare essentials in the way of repair to existing houses. The older houses are deteriorating year by year. The standard of the existing rural houses has not been high, and all these houses cannot be replaced for many years. There is, of course, a very marked difference in the standard of accommodation in the houses being provided by the Council. One feels that much could be done by judicious reconditioning and improvement of the existing houses to assist in raising the standard of accommodation for the rural worker.

It is regretted that owing to the heavy call on time in carrying out other duties it has not been possible to complete the Housing Survey, but all possible progress is being made.

In the latter part of the year, " Squatters " took over sites some of which were either unsuitable or were still required by the Services. The Council decided to take over the sites at Blickling, Catton, Rackheath and Taverham, and offer accommodation at these to persons occupying the remaining sites. The number of persons occupying the approved sites was 261 at the end of the year.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 21 Bakehouses in the district, and 42 visits of inspection have been made.

One notice only was served and the following works carried out:—

Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	1

SUMMARY OF NUISANCES ABATED AND OTHER
WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE YEAR

During the year, 207 notices have been served in connection with Public Health and Housing defects, and as a result the following works have been carried out:—

HOUSING—

Piped water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	7
Pumps to wells repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Well covers repaired	...	...	...	...	4

Wells repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Privies converted to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
New pails provided to pail closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Rainwater guttering provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Rainwater guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
Window frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Window frames made to open	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Doors and door frames repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Wall plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	22
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Stoves repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Coppers and ovens repaired or replaced	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	...	...	...	...	...	15

DRAINAGE—

Ditches and watercourses cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Drains cleared	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Drains relaid	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspools emptied	...	...	...	...	...	...	5

MISCELLANEOUS—

Nuisances from animals and fowls abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Accumulations of manure and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Slaughterhouses limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

(Signed) H. S. HAWKINS, A.M.I.S.E.

TUDOR HALL,

ROSE LANE, NORWICH.

September, 1947.

